IDEM
Office of Air Management
Fact Sheet
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Congestion Pricing

Description

Congestion pricing has not been used on a large scale in the United States. However, it is a measure that is recommended for encouraging mode switching (commuter transfers from single occupant vehicle to transit, rail, carpool, etc.), deflecting travel demand from peak periods and for eliminating some trips altogether. The concept behind congestion pricing is to charge vehicles a fare or toll to use the heavily congested roadways. A higher fare or toll is assessed during peak travel periods to discourage excessive use of the congested roadways and encourage use of high occupancy travel options such as transit.

San Diego and Chicago have implemented small scale congestion pricing programs. Such programs usually are implemented by state and local transportation agencies, and the vehicle users absorb the costs associated with the program.

Emission Reduction*

Congestion pricing programs reduce volatile organic compound (VOC), nitrogen oxide (NO_x) and carbon monoxide (CO) emissions. Congestion pricing programs can reduce mobile source VOC emissions by an estimated 8.2%.

Estimated Cost*

The average cost per daily round trip avoided through a congestion pricing program is estimated to be $2.40. The cost per ton of mobile source VOC emissions reduced is approximately $85,000.

Other Benefits and Considerations

In addition to emissions reductions, congestion pricing programs can offer the following benefits to commuters and the community:

- Reduced congestion.
- Less reliance on single occupant vehicle.
- Increased use of transit and rideshare.
- Decreased travel time.

Indiana Air Facts

Implementation Issues

Public acceptance: In general, congestion pricing programs are not well liked by the public or transportation industry.

Start up: Congestion pricing programs can be implemented within two to three years.

Comments

To learn more about transportation control measures, contact Scott Deloney at (800) 451-6027 press zero and ask for extension 3-5684 or dial (317) 233-5684 direct.

**A. Costs and Effectiveness of Transportation Control Measures, National Association of Regional Councils, Apogee Research, Inc., 1994.*